VERMA): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) of Indo-Russia cooperation in Science and Technology (S&T), an Indo-Russian Centre for Biotechnology (IRCB) has been set up at Allahabad. This centre will be hosted by Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad. The centre will be a nodal point for coordination, networking and implementation of joint projects under Indo-Russian cooperation in biotechnology. The areas of cooperation include agriculture biotechnology, medical biotechnology and technology development and transfer. The funding of the centre will be as per the terms and conditions of ILTP agreement signed between Department of Science & Technology in the Ministry of Science & Technology and Russian Academy of Sciences. The joint projects taken up under the centre will consist of exchange of visits, research material and sharing of expertise in product and process development as well as commercialization.

Computer education in Gujarat Schools

971. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any Central scheme in Gujarat to provide computer education to school students particularly in Government schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Secondary & Higher Education has launched a revised Computer Literacy & Studies in Schools (CLASS) in 2001-2002 in all the States/UT's including Gujarat to promote Computer Literacy in Schools in the country.

(b) Under the revised CLASS scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/UT's on the basis of the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) submitted by- the States/UTs. Union Government would provide 75% of the financial assistance while the State Governments/UTs would have to contribute a minimum of 25% of the funds. The CLASS, scheme also provides for contribution of 25%

of funds, from the MPLADS, in addition or as an alternative, to State Government contribution.

Based on the Computer Education Plan received from Government of Gujarat in February, 2002, it has been decided to sanction an amount of Rs. 15 crores as Central Government share for covering 300 schools during the current year. The balance 25% of the amount would be borne by the Government of Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 7,50,00,000/- is being released as 1st instalment during the current year. Besides, KVS/NVS would convert one school in Gujarat into a SMART school for which a grant of not more than Rs. 25 lakhs would be given per SMART schools.

Amendment in the syllabi in the University of Delhi

† 972. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the task of amendment in the syllabi in the University of Delhi has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken by the Government to complete this task at the earliest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi revision of syllabi is a continuous process and the University has been effecting minor as well as major revisions in syllabi of various courses from time to time.

(b) and (c) With a view to provide a broad common curriculum framework for the colleges and the universities across the country and to facilitate updating of thier existing curricula, the UGC had recently constituted Curriculum Development Committees to frame model curriculum for more than thirty subjects in various disciplines like

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.